



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, June 26, 2008
www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae
Docket #: 08-mj-209-KJM

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MODESTO FOOTBALL COACH INDICTED FOR COCAINE TRAFFICKING

Sacramento federal grand jury indicts Armando Perez and three others of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and distribution of cocaine

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that ARMANDO VASQUEZ PEREZ, 28, of Modesto, California, and three others, were indicted today of five counts of conspiracy to distribute cocaine and distribution of cocaine. The five counts allege that PEREZ, a youth sports coach, was the cocaine supplier for a conspiracy that began in July 2007 and ended with his arrest on June 13, 2008.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Jason Hitt, who is prosecuting the case, PEREZ was indicted along with JAIME FLORES, 25, NARCISCO MARTINEZ, 27, and GUADALUPE GUTIERREZ, 33, all of Modesto. According to the court documents, MARTINEZ sold large quantities of powder cocaine to a DEA undercover agent in September 2007 and again in May 2008. During the investigation, DEA agents discovered that MARTINEZ was in frequent telephone contact with PEREZ before and after MARTINEZ conducted the cocaine deals. Using surveillance and phone record analysis, DEA agents suspected PEREZ was supplying cocaine to MARTINEZ through his cousin FLORES. Subsequent investigation confirmed that suspicion. Specifically, during a drug deal conducted by the DEA undercover agent with MARTINEZ on May 9, 2008, agents watched and videotaped

MARTINEZ meeting with PEREZ and PEREZ's cousin, FLORES, at the PEREZ family business, Los Compadres Auto Sales. According to the criminal complaint filed in the case, the meeting was consistent with MARTINEZ returning to his drug supplier, PEREZ, and providing PEREZ with a portion of the proceeds from the drug sale with the undercover agent.

On June 12, 2008, the DEA staged a large takedown in the investigation resulting in the seizure of over three kilograms of cocaine with an estimated street value of over \$60,000. On June 12, 2008, the undercover agent arranged to purchase 2½ kilograms of cocaine from MARTINEZ in Modesto. After a series of recorded calls, MARTINEZ arrived at a Rite Aid parking lot in Salida, at which time MARTINEZ was taken into custody. Agents discovered MARTINEZ in possession of approximately two kilograms of cocaine. They also discovered an additional one pound of cocaine hidden in a red, zippered, folding picnic chair inside MARTINEZ's garage at his residence at 904 Countryside Lane, Modesto.

After being placed under arrest, MARTINEZ admitted that his cocaine supplier beginning in approximately July of 2007 was PEREZ along with PEREZ's cousin, FLORES. MARTINEZ then directed agents to the residence at 1010 Sylvan Meadows Drive, Modesto, to which MARTINEZ admitted he had gone earlier that morning and obtained from FLORES the approximately 2½ kilograms of cocaine recovered from MARTINEZ during his arrest at the Rite Aid. Pursuant to a federal search warrant at the location agents located FLORES and, an ice chest in the kitchen containing approximately one kilogram of cocaine. Agents also discovered a "kilo press," a device commonly used by drug traffickers to add adulterant to existing bricks of cocaine and then press the adulterated kilogram of cocaine back into the form of a kilogram brick.

The defendants are scheduled to be arraigned on the indictment by Judge Kimberly J.

Mueller on June 27, 2008, at 2:00 p.m.

The maximum statutory penalty for conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute at least 500 grams of cocaine is 40 years in prison. The maximum statutory penalty for distribution of cocaine is 20 years in prison. In this case, each defendant faces a mandatory minimum of five years in prison on Counts 1 and 5 of the indictment based upon the amount cocaine alleged in those counts. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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